

Senate File 512 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 512

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 337)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the installation and maintenance of train
2 defect detectors on railway branch lines, and providing
3 penalties.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 327F.6 Defect detectors.

2 1. A railroad company shall install and maintain at least
3 one defect detector on or along every railway branch line upon
4 which the company operates a train, and if the railway branch
5 line is longer than fifteen miles, the railroad company shall
6 install and maintain at least one defect detector every fifteen
7 miles. Railroad companies that operate on the same railway
8 may jointly share the costs associated with installing and
9 maintaining defect detectors under this subsection.

10 2. a. A railroad company that operates a train on a railway
11 branch line that does not have a defect detector installed and
12 maintained in accordance with subsection 1 is subject to a
13 schedule "five" penalty under section 327C.5 for every mile of
14 the branch line, or if the branch line is longer than fifteen
15 miles, for every mile of the branch line that is more than
16 fifteen miles away from a defect detector, as applicable.

17 b. A railroad company is subject to a schedule "five"
18 penalty under section 327C.5 for each time a train crosses or
19 passes by a defect detector that fails to notify the train crew
20 of a detected defect.

21 3. Railroad companies that operate on the same railway
22 branch line are jointly and severally liable in any suit
23 arising from the installation and maintenance of all defect
24 detectors, or lack thereof, on or along the branch line.

25 4. As used in this section, "defect detector" means a
26 device, regardless of whether the device is integrated into
27 the railway, equipped with sensors that detect axle and brake
28 abnormalities on a passing train and alert the train crew of
29 any detected abnormality.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill requires a railroad company to install and
34 maintain at least one defect detector, as defined in the bill,
35 on or along every railway branch line upon which the company's

1 trains operate. If the branch line is longer than 15 miles,
2 one defect detector is required at least every 15 miles.
3 Railroad companies that operate trains on the same railway
4 may share such costs and are jointly and severally liable in
5 any suit arising from the installation and maintenance of all
6 defect detectors, or lack thereof, on or along the railway
7 branch line.

8 A railroad company that operates a train on a railway branch
9 line that does not have a defect detector installed as required
10 under the bill is subject to a schedule "five" penalty under
11 Code section 327C.5 for every mile of the branch line, or every
12 mile that is more than 15 miles away from a defect detector,
13 as applicable. A schedule "five" penalty is a fine of not
14 less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000 for a first violation, and
15 not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 for a subsequent
16 violation.